

Leverage: Choose Gratitude

2 CORINTHIANS 9:1-5 (P. 806)

Week of October 27, 2013

Leverage • Message 4

Do you experience buyer's remorse?

Stability: God's Word About Greed

On Sunday, we looked at a lot of passages about greed. After reading them again, answer this question: What does God think about greed?

Mark 7:20-23 • Romans 1:28-32 • Ephesians 5:3-6 • Colossians 3:5-6

What does our society think about greed? What role does greed play?

Pivot: What Really Conquers Greed...

In 2 Corinthians 9:5, the Greek word that has already been translated "greed" in the other passages we read, is translated as "grudgingly given." Paul is creating a clear contrast between the concepts of greed and generosity.

Read the whole chapter **2 Corinthians 9**. What reasons do you see for being generous?

How does generosity produce gratitude?

Push: Take One Thing Home

On Sunday, I encouraged everyone to dig out greed and move toward gratitude by following the path of generosity, and I claimed that there are two different kinds of giving in the Bible. There is giving "just because" and there is giving "to a cause." The first kind of giving is described in the Bible as a "firstfruits" offering or a "tithe" which means returning to God the first portion of his blessings to us, specifically at least 10% in the case of things that can be counted. God commands that it be given toward his work just because it's his already. **What has your personal experience been with this kind of giving? What do you think of tithing?**

The second kind of giving is demonstrated when the Israelites are commanded to take care of the poor, to contribute to the building of the temple, and to bring occasional sacrifices in worship. It is also demonstrated in Paul's efforts to raise money for his missionary work and for helping the church in Jerusalem. **What has your personal experience been with this kind of giving?**

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